



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

February 8, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: BOBCAT SIGHTINGS IN CALGARY RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT PET SAFETY



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/canada/calgary/calgary-bobcats-pets-attack-1.3431297>

WARM UP

Are you familiar with bobcats? What do you know about bobcats? Read the description below for more information about bobcats.

Bobcats are a small North American cat species with distinctive black bars on its forelegs, a spotted coat, and a black-tipped short tail; from which it derives its name.

The bobcat is an adaptable predator that inhabits wooded areas, urban edge, forest edges, as well as semi-desert and swampland environments. They are solitary and territorial animals. The bobcat prefers rabbits but will eat anything from insects, geese, chickens, and rodents.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Before listening to the newscast, look at the vocabulary below. Look up the definitions in English for the words you do not understand. Type in: the word plus definition in your browser (e.g. spot definition) to find the definition in English using the Internet.

WORD	TYPE	DEFINITION
spot	verb	
attack	verb	
kill	verb	
abundance	adjective	
prey	noun	
dangerous	adjective	

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

Pet _____ in some Calgary neighbourhoods where bobcats have been
_____ are being told to keep their smaller pets indoors for their
_____.

The animals have been seen in several southwest neighbourhoods, including Lakeview,
Kelvin Grove and Britannia. There have been reports of a bobcat _____
and _____ a small dog in Lakeview.

John Tetz, with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, says the _____ are in Calgary
for one reason – because of an _____ of prey, including small pets.”
Tetz says Calgarians living in areas where bobcats have been seen should watch their
small pets _____.

Tetz says the wildlife service doesn't monitor the urban bobcat population because they
are not considered _____ to humans.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: PRESENT PERFECT PASSIVE

USE

Present Perfect Passive is useful when describing something that was done in the past
when there isn't a lot of information about who did it, when, how, why, etc. Therefore,
this tense is used often in newscasts.

FORM

Subject + has/have + been + past participle
e.g. The box of chocolates has been opened.
e.g. The chocolates have been opened.

Instructions: Underline the examples used in the newscast above.

NEWSCAST 2: HEALTHY FAST FOOD?



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/business/mcdonalds-kale-calorie-questions-1.3423938>

WARM UP

Discuss the following questions with a friend or colleague:

- Do you eat fast food?
- Do you like McDonald's? Why or why not?
- Do you think that fast food is popular in North America? Why or why not?
- Describe your eating habits. How often do you eat at home? How often do you go out to eat?
- What types of food do you eat when you are in a hurry? Look at the picture above. In your opinion, which is healthier – the burger or the salad?

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Look at the definitions below before listening to the newscast.

a health kick	a plan to do everything possible to be healthy
to reinvent	to change something so it appears to be new
experts	people that have knowledge or skill in a particular area
nutrient	a substance that provides nourishment essential for growth and life
enhanced	improved quality; increased
comparable	of equivalent quality
trendy	popular; fashionable; up to date in style or influence
superfood	a nutrient-rich food that is especially beneficial for health and well-being
to toss	throw something casually
crispy	a food that has a pleasingly firm surface or texture
Caesar salad	a salad with lettuce, croutons, Caesar dressing, and grated parmesan

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the newscast again. Fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

McDonald's is on a health kick and trying to _____ its image. But health experts say some of its nutrient-_____ meals are actually _____ to junk food.

Kale, a leafy green vegetable chock-full of vitamins, has become a trendy _____. McDonald's, the global fast-food chain recently _____ the green into a breakfast wrap and a line of salads.

McDonald's boasts that the _____ chicken Caesar salad contains "a nutrient-rich lettuce blend of baby _____" but once you add the Asiago _____ dressing the salad has 730 calories, 53 grams of fat, and 1,400 milligrams of salt. A Double Big Mac actually has fewer calories and much less fat.

Obesity expert, Dr. Yoni Freedhoff says, "Putting kale into the menu doesn't mean you're getting a _____ choice." He adds, "There really aren't many _____ things to order at any restaurant. If you want to learn how to eat _____, eat out less often and learn how to cook."

CLOSING

Discuss the following questions with a friend or colleague:

- Did you think the burger or the salad was healthier?
- Were you surprised to learn that the salad has more calories, fat, and salt than the double Big Mac?
- Can you think of other foods that are promoted as healthy choices but are not actually good for you?
- Do you check the number of calories and amount of fat or salt in food items that you buy?

NEWSCAST 3: NOVA SCOTIA MAN WITH LUNG CANCER IN CALGARY WANTS TO GO HOME TO DIE



Photo source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/dying-man-wants-to-die-in-nb-1.3428708>

WARM UP

Describe the man in the picture.

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Look at the words below. Match the words with the correct definition. The first one is done for you.

#	WORD	DEFINITION
5	a) terminal	1) admit to a hospital for medical treatment
	b) wish	2) put something in writing or in the form of a video
	c) record	3) a platform that allows people to raise money for life events or challenging circumstances like illnesses
	d) diagnose	4) become progressively worse
	e) hospitalize	5) the end of something; slow incurable disease
	f) deteriorate	6) an unfamiliar person
	g) GoFundMe	7) identify the medical condition of someone
	h) stranger	8) being kind and plentiful; giving
	i) generosity	9) a desire or hope for something to happen

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY

Based on the title of this newscast and the vocabulary above, try to predict what the story is about. Discuss your ideas with a friend or colleague. If you are doing this lesson plan, write your ideas below.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the newscast again. Answer the questions below while you listen.

- 1) Where is the man from the picture from?
- 2) What has the man been diagnosed with?
- 3) What is the man's name?
- 4) What is he trying to do?
- 5) Where is he currently living?
- 6) How much money is needed to make his wish come true?
- 7) How was the money raised?
- 8) When is he expected to fly home?

CONCLUSION

Have you heard of the company GoFundMe? If not, check out the website at www.gofundme.com to see how it works, view popular campaigns, and read about success stories.

Discuss or consider the questions below:

- What do you think of this site?
- Are you surprised that this man was able to raise the money needed in order to make his wish come true? Why or why not?
- Do you think the people that donated to Cameron Conrad's campaign care whether or not he smoked? Why or why not?
- What wishes do you have?

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 8th.	0:00
Newscast 1 <i>Bobcat sightings in Calgary raise concerns about pet safety</i>	<p>Pet owners in some Calgary neighbourhoods where bobcats have been spotted are being told to keep their smaller pets indoors for their safety.</p> <p>The animals have been seen in several southwest neighbourhoods, including Lakeview, Kelvin Grove and Britannia. There have been reports of a bobcat attacking and killing a small dog in Lakeview.</p> <p>John Tetz, with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, says the bobcats are in Calgary for one reason – because of an abundance of prey, including small pets.” Tetz says Calgarians living in areas where bobcats have been seen should watch their small pets closely.</p> <p>Tetz says the wildlife service doesn't monitor the urban bobcat population because they are not considered dangerous to humans.</p>	0:01
Newscast 2 <i>Healthy Fast Food?</i>	<p>McDonald's is on a health kick and trying to reinvent its image. But health experts say some of its nutrient-enhanced meals are actually comparable to junk food.</p> <p>Kale, a leafy green vegetable chock-full of vitamins, has become a trendy superfood. McDonald's, the global fast-food chain recently tossed the green into a breakfast wrap and a line of salads.</p> <p>McDonald's boasts that the crispy chicken Caesar salad contains “a nutrient-rich lettuce blend of baby kale” but once you add the Asiago Caesar dressing the salad has 730 calories, 53 grams of fat, and 1,400 milligrams of salt. A Double Big Mac actually has fewer calories and much less fat.</p> <p>Obesity expert, Dr. Yoni Freedhoff says, “Putting kale into the menu doesn't mean you're getting a healthy choice.” He adds, “There really aren't many safe things to order at any restaurant. If you want to learn how to eat healthy, eat out less often and learn how to cook.”</p>	1:05

<p>Newscast 3</p> <p><i>Nova Scotia man with lung cancer wants to go home to die</i></p>	<p>From a hospital bed 3,700 kilometres from home, a Nova Scotia man with terminal lung cancer recently recorded his dying wish.</p> <p>“My name is Cameron Conrad and I’m trying to get home to Nova Scotia. Trying to raise enough money so I can die at home,” the message said.</p> <p>Conrad was diagnosed in November 2015. His doctors told him he might have until May. He’s been living in Alberta, is hospitalized in Calgary, and his family must raise \$47,000 for a medical flight to grant Conrad’s wish to come home.</p> <p>The family originally planned to bring him home on a commercial flight, but his condition deteriorated. The only option is a Medevac with a nurse by his side.</p> <p>The family set up a GoFundMe page and raised more than \$48,000 thanks to a large number of strangers. Conrad was shocked by the generosity. They haven’t booked the flight yet but the family hopes to have Conrad home this weekend or early next week.</p>	<p>2:30</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1:

BOBCAT SIGHTINGS IN CALGARY RAISE CONCERNS ABOUT PET SAFETY

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

WORD	TYPE	DEFINITION
spot	verb	see; notice; recognize
attack	verb	take aggressive action against someone or something
kill	verb	cause the death of a person, animal, or other living thing
abundance	adjective	a lot of; a large amount of something
prey	noun	an animal that is hunted and killed by another for food
dangerous	adjective	likely to cause harm or injury

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Pet **owners** in some Calgary neighbourhoods where bobcats have been **spotted** are being told to keep their smaller pets indoors for their **safety**.

The animals have been seen in several southwest neighbourhoods, including Lakeview, Kelvin Grove and Britannia. There have been reports of a bobcat **attacking** and **killing** a small dog in Lakeview.

John Tetz, with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, says the **bobcats** are in Calgary for one reason – because of an **abundance** of prey, including small pets.” Tetz says Calgarians living in areas where bobcats have been seen should watch their small pets **closely**.

Tetz says the wildlife service doesn’t monitor the urban bobcat population because they are not considered **dangerous** to humans.

LANGUAGE FOCUS: PRESENT PERFECT PASSIVE

Pet owners in some Calgary neighbourhoods where bobcats have been spotted are being told to keep their smaller pets indoors for their safety.

The animals have been seen in several southwest neighbourhoods, including Lakeview, Kelvin Grove and Britannia. There have been reports of a bobcat attacking and killing a small dog in Lakeview.

John Tetz, with Alberta Fish and Wildlife, says the bobcats are in Calgary for one reason – because of an abundance of prey, including small pets.” Tetz says Calgarians living in areas where bobcats have been seen should watch their small pets closely.

Tetz says the wildlife service doesn’t monitor the urban bobcat population because they are not considered dangerous to humans.

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: HEALTHY FAST FOOD?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

McDonald's is on a health kick and trying to **reinvent** its image. But health experts say some of its nutrient-**enhanced** meals are actually **comparable** to junk food.

Kale, a leafy green vegetable chock-full of vitamins, has become a trendy **superfood**. McDonald's, the global fast-food chain recently **tossed** the green into a breakfast wrap and a line of salads.

McDonald's boasts that the **crispy** chicken Caesar salad contains "a nutrient-rich lettuce blend of baby **kale**" but once you add the Asiago **Caesar** dressing the salad has 730 calories, 53 grams of fat, and 1,400 milligrams of salt. A Double Big Mac actually has fewer calories and much less fat.

Obesity expert, Dr. Yoni Freedhoff says, "Putting kale into the menu doesn't mean you're getting a **healthy choice**." He adds, "There really aren't many **safe** things to order at any restaurant. If you want to learn how to eat **healthy**, eat out less often and learn how to cook."

CLOSING

Discussion will vary

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3:

NOVA SCOTIA MAN WITH LUNG CANCER IN CALGARY WANTS TO GO HOME TO DIE

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

#	WORD	DEFINITION
5	a) terminal	1) admit to a hospital for medical treatment
9	b) wish	2) put something in writing or in the form of a video
2	c) record	3) a platform that allows people to raise money for life events or challenging circumstances like illnesses
7	d) diagnose	4) become progressively worse
1	e) hospitalize	5) the end of something; slow incurable disease
4	f) deteriorate	6) an unfamiliar person
3	g) GoFundMe	7) identify the medical condition of someone
6	h) stranger	8) being kind and plentiful; giving
8	i) generosity	9) a desire or hope for something to happen

PRE-LISTENING ACTIVITY

Answers will vary

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

- 1) Where is the man from the picture from?
Nova Scotia
- 2) What has the man been diagnosed with?
Lung cancer
- 3) What is the man's name?
Cameron Conrad
- 4) What is he trying to do?
Raise money in order to die at home
- 5) Where is he currently living?
Alberta
- 6) How much money is needed to make his wish come true?
\$47,000 / \$47k
- 7) How was the money raised?
GoFundMe
- 8) When is he expected to fly home?
On the weekend or early next week

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca